

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 9-10 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,254,246 to Tiao et al.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiao et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,474,826 to Tanaka et al.

Claim 34 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiao et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,474,826 to Tanaka et al.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are improper and therefore should be withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 9-10 and 34-35 remain pending in this application for further consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 9-10 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tiao et al. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiao et al. in view of Tanaka et al. Claim 34 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiao et al. in view of Tanaka et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the following reasons.

With respect to each of independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Tiao et

al. does not teach or suggest a claimed combination including at least the recited feature that “many substantially arc-shaped elongated lenses are formed in parallel to each other on at least one surface of said light deflecting device so as to surround said primary light source.”

The Office Action alleges that Tiao et al. teaches or suggests each and every feature of the present invention as defined by independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree. For example, the Office Action appears to suggest a light converging means 330 (see FIG. 3E of Tiao et al.) allegedly as the claimed “light deflecting device.” However, in the present invention, a light deflecting device 3, as shown in FIG. 1-6A, includes a plurality of prisms 5 that are each elongated in parallel and also are **in an arc shape to surround a point-shaped light source 1**. Unlike the present invention of independent claim 1, Tiao et al. merely discloses the light converging means 330 consisting of a plurality of lenses that are each shaped in a straight line. Tiao et al. fails to teach or suggest that the plurality of lenses of the light converging means 330 are elongated in an arc-shape to surround a light source 302. Moreover, the light source 302 is not a “point-shaped light source,” as recited by independent claim 1. In other words, Applicants respectfully submit that Tiao et al. does not teach or suggest the claimed combination including at least the feature that “many substantially arc-shaped elongated lenses are formed in parallel to each other on at least one surface of said light deflecting device so as to surround said primary light source,” as recited by independent claim 1.

There are additional distinctions between the present invention and Tiao et al. For example, as shown in FIG. 3E and as further described in col. 5, lines 18-21 of Tiao et al., the light converging means 330 having the lens array is disposed on a projection plane 318 to

collimate the light emitted from the light source 302, introduced into illumination uniformizing means 310 and scattered therein by a large angle. That is, the light in the illumination uniformizing means 310 is collimated by the light converging means 330 and then emitted to the outside. By contrast, in the present invention, the light deflecting device is arranged above the light guide to control the direction of the light emitted from the light guide. Accordingly, the light converging means 330 having the lens array of the device of Tiao et al. does not have the same function as the light deflecting device including many substantially arc-shaped elongated lenses of the present invention.

Further, as described in col. 5, lines 21-23 of Tiao et al., “[t]o identify the center of each lens of the light converging means 330 and each center of the corresponding scattering pattern, the operation can thus be optimized”. Since the scattering pattern is linear as shown in FIG. 3C or 3D and as further described in col. 4, lines 52-54 of Tiao et al., each lens of the lens array of the light converging means 330 of the device of Tiao et al. should be linear and cannot be substantially arc-shaped elongated lens of the present invention.

Furthermore, as shown in FIG. 3B and as described in col. 4, lines 44-47 of Tiao et al., the light source 302 includes an array of light emitting devices 306 arranged in a two-dimensional area. Such an arrangement of Tiao et al. cannot have many substantially arc-shaped elongated lenses formed to surround the primary light source as in the present application.

Therefore, the light converging means 330 of Tiao et al. does not have the function of the light deflecting device of the present invention as described in the specification of the present application, page 15, line 20 to page 16, line 8.

In addition, the Office Action does not rely upon Tanaka et al. to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Tiao et al. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Tanaka et al. cannot remedy the deficiencies of Tiao et al. Tanaka et al. also merely discloses a prism array 22 (see Fig. 1 for example) including a plurality of prisms arranged in a longitudinal direction, but fails to teach or suggest that those prisms can be arranged in an arc shape to surround a light source 10.

For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn because the applied reference does not teach or suggest each and every feature of independent claim 1. As pointed out in MPEP § 2131, "[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim." Thus, "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. Of California, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)." Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2, 9-10 and 35 rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and dependent claims 3 and 34 rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are allowable at least because of their dependencies from independent claim 1 and the reasons set forth above.

With no other rejections pending, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-3, 9-10 and 34-35 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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